[*Translation*]

Pension to Retired Artists

3789. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pension Ki Dohari Niti Ke Shikar Kalakar" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated July 6, 1991;

(b) whether the Government propose to review its decision of stopping the pension of retired artists;

(c) whether their pension would be released in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the number of such artists whose pensions have been stopped, year-wise and State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) According to a scheme introduced by the Government in 1982, certain categories of Staff Artists designated as 'Artists' were made eligible for pensionary benefits in terms of that scheme with effect from 6th March, 1982. The Government has not stopped pension of any such 'Artists'. However, on the directions of the Supreme Court in a case challenging the above scheme, the Government constituted a High Power Committee to review the said scheme The report of the High Power Committee has since been received. Action has been initiated on the recommendations.

[*English*]

Telecast of Programmes on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel

3791. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times programmes were telecast on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel on Doordarshan during their centenary year;

(b) the total time involved in telecast of programmes from Doordarshan on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel, separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to telecast any more programmes on Sardar Patel and Pt. Pant on Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) During the Centenary Celebration of Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant Doordarshan telecast 15 programmes on its National network for a duration of 6 hours 18 minutes between 10-09-87 and 15-12-88. The Centenary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was celebrated during 1974-75. Details of the programmes telecast during that period are not readily available. However, a special programme on the life and works of Sardar Patel was telecast on 12-07-1991 in commemoration of conferment of Bharat Ratna on him posthumously. A programme on Sardar Patel's Birth Anniversary on 31-10-91 is envisaged to be telecast in the National network programme.

(c) and (d) The telecasting of programmes on Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant and Sardar Patel in future would depend on programme requirements.

Haldia DAP unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

3792. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Economic Times' dated July 20, 1991 under the caption "PIB rejects HFC plan for Haldia DAP Unit";